

**SPECIAL MEETING of the Town Council held Monday, February 12, 2007 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber, Town Building, 105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville for and within the Town of Burrillville.**

**PRESENT: Council President Nancy F. Binns, Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Kevin M. Blais, Margaret L. Dudley, John M. Karmozyn Jr. and Norman C. Mainville**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Cynthia L. Roe was excused due to illness**

**OTHERS PRESENT: Senator Paul W. Fogarty, Representatives Raymond Church and Edwin R. Pacheco**

**Relative to discussion, consideration and action the Legislative Agenda of the Burrillville Town Council**

**Zambarano Hospital:**

- **Representative Pacheco noted that there had been no developments relative to the DCYF proposal.**
- **Representative Pacheco informed the Town Council that Ronald E. Faford and Councilor Norman C. Mainville remain interested in serving on the commission.**

**There was general discussion of the staffing and alternate uses of the facility.**

### **Economic Development:**

The Council requested that the legislators track changes to the Historic Tax Credits and Eminent Domain legislation. They were informed that changes to Historic Tax Credits were anticipated. The benefits to communities of both laws were discussed.

### **High Speed Telecommunications:**

Rep. Pacheco noted that Verizon had declined extended service to northern Rhode Island due to cost. The matter was discussed.

### **State Aid – RIGL §45-13-13:**

The history of the enactment and repealing of §45-13-13 was reviewed. The possibility that further legislation might be introduced that would impact the town's state aid was discussed.

### **Elimination of School Mandates:**

Senator Fogarty indicated that he had co-sponsored a bill to prohibit unfunded mandates. There was general discussion regarding the difficulties of funding mandates, particularly when tax increases are limited by law. Problems related to "No Child Left Behind" were discussed. Possible regionalized and statewide school districts, statewide teachers' contracts were discussed.

### **School Department Budget Appeals:**

Earlier proposals that would allow School Committees to bypass the

**local budget authorities were reviewed.**

**School Aid – Outstanding Tuition Payments:**

**The Town's concern relative to money owed in unpaid tuition payments from other cities and towns relating to special education placements was reviewed.**

**Police Officers' Bill of Rights:**

**The legislators were asked to notify the Town if bills were filed that would change the Police Officers' Bill of Rights.**

**Northern Rhode Island Private Industry Council:**

**There was general discussion of the financial burden resulting from the bankruptcy of the Northern Rhode Island Private Industry Council.**

**Excise Tax Phase Out:**

**The program appears to be going well and supported continuation.**

**Town Right of Ways and Utility Poles:**

**It was recommended that the Council pass a resolution, contact the various cities and towns for support, and testify before the committee when the bill was heard. There was discussion of the fees and the manner in which fees are set.**

**Pascoag Reservoir:**

**There was discussion of recently adopted legislation related to dams and potential impact on local communities.**

**Library Funding:**

**The Town of Burrillville no longer has issues with library funding.**

**National Criminal Records Checks:**

**The Town believes it should be able to recoup the costs to perform these checks.**

**MTBE:**

**The Town appreciates Senator Fogarty introducing Senate Bill 2007 S0060. No hearings have been scheduled.**

**NFPA-1500:**

**There was discussion whether the Council should take a position on this program.**

**Affordable Housing:**

**The Low & Moderate Income Housing Act was reviewed. The Town opposes any legislation that would allow developers to by-pass the local planning and/or zoning authorities.**

**Maddie Walker Bill:**

**The town has concerns with the bill, which relates to tax sales, as it is written and the administration is working on a proposal for the**

## **Council's consideration.**

### **Tax Cap Legislation:**

**There was a discussion of the difficulties associated with the legislation, particularly as the cap is lowered in future years, i.e. the fact that much of the budget is fixed-costs over which the communities have no control and the need to expand services as the community grows. There was general discussion of the studies of the long-term impact.**

### **Sign Legislation:**

**There was discussion of amending the town sign ordinance and of requesting legislation that would allow the Town to remove signs from state property if they violate the local ordinance. It was suggested that the matter could be handled without legislation.**

### **Education:**

**There was discussion of the pros and cons of using a funding formula for state aid to education.**

### **Reports from Legislators:**

**It was recommended that the legislators' website provides a journal with prompt and complete information relative to each bill introduced, that the League of Cities and Towns keeps the Manager apprised of bills related to the municipalities and that the Manager and the Clerk track legislation of local interest. The tracking process was**

**discussed.**

**Legislation Related to Delinquent Taxes:**

**(Maddie Walker bill – discussed above.) More information would be available at a future meeting.**

**RIGL §32-6: Recreation Immunity:**

**It is the Town's understanding that there is a proposal to amend the statute, making it easier to get a judgment against the municipalities. The legislators were asked to inform the Town if such legislation is proposed.**

**Clean Elections:**

**There was discussion opposing the proposal due to expense**

**Summary:**

**Senator Fogarty discussed the time-frame for introducing legislation. The Senator indicated that he would introduce a bill related to Town Right of Ways and Utility Poles and asked for a Council resolution to be adopted promptly.**

**Rep. Pacheco informed the Council that bills related to convenience tax and bonding had been introduced. The bills were discussed.**

**Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, informed the legislators that the Regents would consider the ice rink project in March and asked for**

**the support of the legislators.**

**Council President Nancy F. Binns thanked the legislators for their participation in the meeting.**

**VOTED to adjourn at 7:30 P.M.**

**Motion by Councilor Norman C. Mainville. Seconded by Councilor Wallace F. Lees. The vote was unanimous by the six members present. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Kevin M. Blais, Margaret L. Dudley, John M. Karmozyn Jr. and Norman C. Mainville. Councilor Cynthia L. Roe was excused.**

**Cynthia H. Ketcham, Deputy Town Clerk**